LEADERS OF MODERN ISRAEL

ELDER MARK E. PETERSEN

ON November 7th, 1946, Elder Mark E. Peterson will celebrate his forty-sixth birthday. He is the youngest member of the Council of the Twelve.

Born in a very humble home in Salt Lake City, his parents were Danish converts who emigrated to the land of Zion for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Despite his youthfulness, he is an experienced leader, both in civic and Church affairs.

He has had an unusually prominent Church career. He filled an honourable mission to Canada in 1920. He is a very enthusiastic Temple worker, being an expert in the field of research. He is a clear thinker, an able writer and an eloquent speaker.

He was ordained an apostle on the 20th April, 1946. He was the twelfth and last one ordained by President Heber J. Grant.

Our congratulations and good wishes we readily extend to him.

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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Divorce

DIVORCE is an evil against which all right thinking people should labour. It is a blot upon our civilization; it is a slight upon the homes of our country, and raises a barrier against the possibilities for success amongst the children of our land.

The increase of this dreaded plague in our beloved island continues with frightening speed. The following figures taken from the Civil Judicial Statistics give us an insight to the appalling conditions which exists. From 1900 to 1905 the average was 563.2; in the years 1921 to 1925 it was 2,733.6, and in 1938 it rose to 6,250. Then came the war and the figure rose even higher until it reached the peak of 14,614 in 1945, and it is conservatively estimated that in 1946 the figure will be around 25,000. The waiting period for complete annulment has recently been reduced from six months to six weeks, and, due mostly to this change, the figure soared again to 13,000 in the two months from the 13th August to 13th October, 1946.

President Heber J. Grant in discussing this subject on one occasion said: "One of the serious evils of our day is divorce." This breaking up of families; this infidelity of husband and wife, leaves in its train misery and sorrow.

Juvenile Court figures show the fact that the majority of children brought before the Court come from broken homes.

There is no question about the fact that when people bring the gospel with them into their homes, they bring with it the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Love, and when love reigns in the home there is no room for discord which ends in divorce.

One of the greatest causes of divorce, unfortunately, is infidelity. Wives and husbands lose their appreciation of the sanctity of their marriage bonds, go out with others to whom they are not married. Can any man violate his marriage vows and suppose that he can win happiness by it? Can any woman think that she can better herself by going out with other men, leaving her own husband to wonder where she is? Let all such persons realise that they are selling their birthright for a "mess of pottage."

Among the Latter-day Saints, divorce is low compared to other groups of people, per capita, but there is a great need for improvement in the lives of some if they would escape the pitfalls. If every case of divorce was studied, it would be seen that sin of some kind laid the groundwork for that divorce. Let us as a people learn the great lesson that in sin there is sorrow—nothing else.

Peace
The Clarion Call from Temple Square

THE way to Peace — National and International—in the home and in the heart—was shown to Latter-day Saints and to the entire world in the General Conference of the Church.

It was certainly one of the greatest conferences ever held by the Church; **it brought to the people, in the voice of authority, a message which unerringly showed the dangers which surround us**—and pointed out the path of safety, saying in an unmistakeable tone—"THIS IS THE WAY, WALK YE IN IT."

Tremendous crowds attended the conference. The largest crowd of Welfare workers ever to assemble for that purpose met at 8.0 a.m. Saturday morning in the Tabernacle. More than ten thousand men attended the Priesthood meeting held on the Saturday evening. The huge Tabernacle was filled to capacity at each session on the Sunday and more than twelve thousand were crowded on to Temple Square. Large numbers had to stand because there was no seating space, yet they stayed on. On Sunday morning, before 7.30 a.m., the Saints began to assemble and by 8.30 a.m., when the Church of the Air programme commenced, the building was filled and they remained until the close of the General Session, many standing all the time. All who attended manifested great enthusiasm and it seemed they could not get enough of the spirit of the meetings and the instructions of their leaders.

The opening address of President George Albert Smith set the theme as he made a stirring appeal for Peace, and he pointed out that peace abroad, at home in the community and in the heart can only come as a result of obeying the Law upon which Peace is predicated—Obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many phases of the Gospel were eloquently considered by the various speakers.

The Welfare Programme of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was characterised as the greatest practical demonstration of Christianity. Members of the First Presidency pledged full and undiluted allegiance to this great plan, stating, **"It stands today as it stood when it was inaugurated under the direction and inspiration of President Heber J. Grant."** They urged a redoubling of efforts in production and distribution, and re-affirmed the guiding principles of the programme as being the independence and security of the people of the Church and everywhere.

The world faces extermination unless through humanitarian motives we destroy the weapons which have been forged to destroy mankind. With a love of God in our hearts we should cry out against their use.

The integrity of the home is challenged by world trends. Marriage has become less sacred to many, divorces are mounting with frightening speed, children are losing the love and influence of good parenthood and as a result juvenile delinquency is mounting more rapidly than ever before. Correct this condition it is urged, or more dire results may follow. **The home is the foundation of Society: it must be preserved.** Immorality was denounced; adultery was again shown to be next to murder in the category of crime and the complacency with which sexual sin is regarded in many quarters was rebuffed. People throughout the world were urged to marry those of their own faith if they would be most happy.

Strikes, the bane of present day life, were branded as relics of barbarianism, and appeals were made to outlaw them. Quoting from the First Presidency: **"Communism is condemned as being hostile and incompatible with true Church membership. Of necessity, no faithful Church member can be a Communist."**

Appeal was made for the preservation of free agency. It was pointed out that without this free agency mankind would lose all that they have gained throughout the past decade.

The Bondage of Debt was again called to the attention of the people, who were reminded that the present inflationary prices and incomes cannot last.

The soul-stirring spiritual messages of the Church leaders characterised each address and each session. The Saints were urged to be obedient; testimonies of the truth were borne; the power of love in the conquest of evil was explained; the importance of missionary work was stressed as a means of bringing the Gospel of Peace to men of all nations. The Book of Mormon was extolled.

The following is a compilation of excerpts from President Smith's conferences addresses:

He said to the youth of the Church that they could have all that the world has and also gain eternal life if they would keep the commandments of God. All the truth there is in the world is already ours, as part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but in addition to that we have the plan which if obeyed will take us back into the presence of our Father in Heaven, but, he said, we can only enjoy the hope of eternal life by keeping the commandments of God so that His Spirit will flow to us.

"We are not out of the woods; this world is in for a house cleaning. Unless the sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father repent of their sins and return to Him, and that means the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints along with the rest. But we ought, first of all, to be setting the example. We have sent over seventy thousand of our sons and daughters into the world to divide the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these other children. Why? Because we know it is the only plan God has given to the children of men to earn a place in the Celestial Kingdom."

In his closing address, President Smith **urged righteous living in the Latter-day Saint's homes as a means of protection against the destroying powers of evil.** If we honour God and keep His commandments, the Church leaders affirm the evil one will be kept away from our doors and we will be assured of happiness and joy in our lives.

I'LL GO WHERE YOU WANT ME TO GO

by President Ezra Taft Benson

Of the Council of the Twelve

An address delivered at the Evening Session of the British Mission Conference

I HAVE only one desire in my heart, my brothers and sisters, and that is to say what the Lord would have me say. I love the song that has just been sung ("I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go"). I question very much whether there were only four voices (as announced), but whether there were four or forty-four, I still enjoyed it. I wish we could all accept the message of that song.

I wish that every Latter-day Saint could say and mean it with all his heart: "I'll go where You want me to go, I'll say what You want me to say, I'll be what You want me to be." If we could all do that, we would be assured of the maximum of happiness here and exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom of God hereafter.

It sound simple, doesn't it? It is simple. The Gospel is simple—just a few simple truths; nothing difficult to understand. I know you will say that the Gospel includes all truth. It does, but the saving principles of the Gospel are simple and eternally true and it is only these simple truths that the world needs. It is not the complicated, philosiphical part; it is not that part which is difficult to understand; it is only those simple truths that the world needs—the saving truths of the Gospel. How I wish we could all rededicate our lives to living these simple teachings!

I realize, my brothers and sisters, that you are good people. There aren't any better people in all the world than the Latter-day Saints, and you are a good representation of the Latter-day Saints. I'd rather live among them than in any other place on this earth, and it matters little whether I live among them in England, in Germany, in the Scandinavian countries, in Washington D.C., in Boise, Idaho, or Salt Lake City. IT IS NOT WHERE

President Benson and his Secretary, Elder Frederick W. Babbel

WE LIVE THAT MATTERS SO MUCH; IT IS HOW WE LIVE. I could be very happy to remain here with you for the rest of my days—I say that sincerely—so long as I could live among Latter-day Saints. Of course, I'd like to have my family with me. We all have that desire.

GRATEFUL FOR THIS MISSION

As I contemplate leaving the shores of Europe, I can truthfully say that never in all my experience have I appreciated more deeply a period of service in the Church than the period of the last ten months. I have met Latter-day Saints in practically every important country in Europe, under the most unusual conditions, in fact under almost every conceivable circumstance. I have met them in rags, huddled together, suffering with the cold, in bombed-out buildings, some of

them in the last stages of starvation. I have been in their homes where they had no food, no furniture to speak of, none of the comforts of life, and yet they have been happy. I have heard them bear testimony to the divinity of this work, with tears streaming down their cheeks as they expressed their gratitude for their blessings, yet practically every material thing had been swept away from them—homes, all the comforts of life, and in some cases every member of their family through death. That is what a testimony will do.

That is your most priceless possession—your testimony of the divinity of this work.

My testimony has been strengthened in the last ten months in Europe. And now that the time approaches for me to return home, in accordance with the Counsel of the Presiding Authorities of the Church, I have nothing but gratitude and thanksgiving in my heart for the experiences gained. The time always goes too rapidly when you are enjoying your labours in the work of the Lord. He has said that you will not be darkened and will not be weary in mind if you go forward in His service—if you will respond to the words of that song, "I'll go where You want me to go." Life will always be sweet and happy. You will be content though you may live under the most adverse conditions, my brothers and sisters.

HOME LIFE ENCOURAGED

I wish I could go into every one of your homes, because I realize that in the home is where you find out what people really are. I wish you could all come into my home. It is one of the things for which I am most thankful—that I have been reared in a good Latter-day Saint home, that I have been privileged to help establish a good Latter-day Saint home which brings so much joy and comfort and support. I shall never cease to thank the Lord for it. I wonder if, as brethren who hold the Priesthood, we fully appreciate our wives and families. It is a glorious thing to be blessed with a companion who will respond wholeheartedly to every call that comes to her husband, who will respond without uttering a word of discouragement or complaint so long as he is in the line of his duty, who will really and fully support him even though it means separation and sacrifice.

It is a glorious thing to have a family where there is unity and love. I hope you have it in your homes, by brothers and sisters. I hope you seek for it; I hope you pray for it. I hope you have family prayers. You need it so much. We all need it. I hope you have your secret prayers. I hope that as mothers and fathers you live close to your children, that you have their love and confidence, that you are not harsh, that you are not cross, that you are understanding. Be firm in the right—yes, in a kindly, sweet way. I pray that the time will never come when your children will go to others for counsel and advice which you should be giving to them. If you have that spirit in your homes it is not going to be difficult for you to live the Gospel, and it is not going to be difficult for your children to grow up to be true Latter-day Saints as you would have them become.

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President Benson makes the Awards

Preach the Gospel By Your Actions

By Selvoy J. Boyer

British Mission President

Afternoon Session
of the British Mission Conference

I PRAY for an interest in your faith and prayers. I hope you are all as thankful to be here as I am. I know many of you have travelled long distances and made sacrifices to attend this conference.

I commend the fine support we have had from the Birmingham District in finding places for us to stay, and all those who work in the background to make these conferences possible As time progresses and things improve there will be more conferences held.

As I travel about this land and see the millions of people, this thought goes through my mind repeatedly—I WONDER WHY IT IS SO MANY PEOPLE WHEN THEY HEAR THE MESSAGE FAIL TO RECOGNISE THE TRUTH AND LIGHT THAT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD.

The Saviour said (John 3: 19): "... and this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

As I look into the faces of those that pass by, be they ministers or lay men, I cannot help wondering whether I can give them the opportunity to see the light and to hear the light, and to feel the light.

I hope that while we are residing here, and whilst we have missionaries in your midst, that none of you will ever come to me, in the years to come, and say, "You knew of these glorious truths and yet you never came and told me." Don't let any of your neighbours come to you and say, "I would have been here with you and enjoyed happiness and blessings on earth, if you had opened your mouth and told me of the things you knew." So, we may have fifty missionaries from Utah,

Mission Leaders at Birmingham

Idaho, and places in the States, but I consider everyone of you as missionaries in the British Mission. It is that feeling of assurance that comes to me today that you are indeed emmissaries of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and many are depending upon each and everyone of you to hear the Truth.

You must help to preach the Gospel by example. If the people know the teachings of the Church are that you should not smoke or drink and you do these things, they will want to know why you do them.. Go right ahead and preach the Gospel to the people you associate with, but be sure you live what you preach and do not do the foolish things that the world does.

All of you who were at Rochdale Conference will remember President Barker spoke about the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. I remember it very well. He told us about the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands, and it rolled forth and filled the whole earth.

And as was told in a dream to Nebuchadnezzar, the Kingdom of God should be established in the last days.

In the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 1, verse 17, we read:

"Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Junr., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments."

And again in Section 1, verse 30, we read:

"And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually..."

If Nebuchadnezzar refers to the Church and Kingdom of God which is on the earth today, and which I know he does, and that by revelation God has set up His Kingdom, and these verses are true, then we must know that ours is a very important and responsible position.

This is a universal Church today; it is scattered throughout the length and breadth of the universe wherever the laws of the land will permit.

All who accept the commandments of God and live by them have a promise:

"And, I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them." (Doctrine and Covenants 89: 21)

And again we read:

"For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea and all that do wickedly, shall be as stubble: and the day cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." (Malachi 4: 1)

As you reflect upon that passage, it won't matter in which land you live in the last day and dispensation of time—the only thing you have is the promise of the Lord to tie to, and the scriptures are full of promises to those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Is there any other nation or people who have such a promise to depend upon? I could refer to many more promises that are encouraging. I do not believe in preaching about calamities, and I try to get people to live their religion on what the Lord has promised.

And in the last days it is promised:

"But in the last days it shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." (Micah 4: 1)

And my testimony to you is that the mouthpiece of God is with us upon this earth—in the top of the mountains.

I plead with you as my friends and my neighbours and my brothers and sisters to go from this conference and remember the righteous resolves which you make in your hearts every day of your life, until we shall meet in another conference, and may your desire be to say—Lord, I have kept my resolutions, I have lived my religion—I have preached this gospel to my friends and my neighbours—and thereby reap the promises made to the faithful.

PLEA FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ON RADIO

A DEPUTATION of both Houses of Parliament recently requested the B.B.C. to extend to the subject of religion "the policy of free discussion" which it had applied to all other subjects.

Sir Allan Powell, chairman of the B.B.C. and Sir William J. Haley, director general, who received them, agreed that the representations should be placed before the B.B.C. governors.

CHARITY NEVER FAILETH

By Gladys S. Boyer

British Mission
Relief Society President

An address delivered at the Afternoon Session of the British Mission Conference

MY dear brother and sisters: This is indeed a privilege and a wonderful opportunity; I do not know how I can explain to you people how at home you make President Boyer and I feel by your kindness. It is just like a stake conference at home where we know everybody and we feel that we know everybody here too, and we are very happy about it.

This morning President Boyer mentioned the Conference at home; it would have been wonderful if we could have been there this morning and heard the message of President George Albert Smith, but we are just as happy to be here to hear the words of encouragement and instructions from our leaders and to feel the same sweet spirit of love.

At the conference, the talks will be on widely different subjects and there will be some time devoted to the Welfare plan which is being carried on. As you know, the Relief Society is joining in the Welfare plan, through which we can make practical application of the divine command, "To love the Lord with our whole might, mind and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves."

The Welfare programme has three objectives: First, to supply food, clothing and shelter to faithful Latter-day Saints who are unable through their own efforts to secure these necessities of life; second. to find employment for those now unemployed, who are capable of labouring; third, to improve the conditions of those who may be employed, but whose income is so meagre as to furnish the bare necessities, not the comforts of life. These objectives may be summarized as charity, self-support, and progressive improvement of existing conditions.

We know that when the Relief Society was first organised they did all they could to help the Church members in need, and that is one reason why it was organised. For many years the Relief Society carried on the charity programme of the Church, but now we work hand in hand with the Priesthood.

Charity goes a lot further than merely taking care of material needs of life; we know that oft-times a kind word will do more to help a person in need, who needs a helping hand, than any amount of money, and even just a smile will mean a lot more to that person and give them an opportunity to talk over their problems with us, which may mean a lot to them. It is not just the material needs of the person that is covered by charity, but a smile will lift them up where a frown would cast them down, so let us remember to give our smiles and encouragement to all whom we meet.

People make mistakes; we all make mistakes. Why they make them and what prompted them to make these mistakes we do not know, but we must try to understand why people make these mistakes and be charitable towards them if we expect to receive the same understanding from them. Oft-times the mistakes of others would have been ours had we had the opportunity to make them.

Charity should begin at home, but it should not stay there. We should have charity in our hearts for others if we expect others to have charity for us. "Where charity does not abide, tyranny reigns."

Brigham Young tells us, "That the moment men seek to build up themselves in preference to the Kingdom of God, and seek to hoard up riches while the widow and the fatherless, the sick and the afflicted around them are in poverty and want, it proves that their hearts are weaned from their God."

—continued on page 346

A MISSIONARY'S FIRST STREET MEETING

I'D KNOWN for about a week that we were going to hold a street meeting in Hyde Park and that I had to give my speech on Repentance.

At first it sounded fun and I agreed right away, but the closer it got to it the more frightened I became and the more I wanted to back out of it. Then the evening fell and time to go. I was still pretty scared, but it just didn't seem real, somehow. It was like something I was living while reading a book and if I closed the book, things would snap back to reality and I'd be just a plain missionary trying to do my office work to the best of my ability. The only trouble was I had no book to shut and I was living in reality.

Then the shock came ! I stepped into the sunlight from the Underground and there before me were the multitudes milling along Hyde Park, with a few people here and there standing on their soap boxes telling the world their views. Right then and there, I snapped to reality. In a few moments I would be one of those few standing on my soap box telling the whole world my views.

My stomach was gone. My heart was trying to shove my teeth out of my mouth and my legs felt like jelly. I grabbed hold of one of the Elders to steady myself and a groan issued from clenched teeth. "I wish I were back in America," I thought to myself, but, instead, boldly walked over to my soap box. After singing, prayer, and introductions, I felt myself being shoved onto the box.

"There was once a man . . ." and I was off ! The strangest feeling came over me as I proceeded with my sermon ! "Why, I'm not frightened any more—good, there's a few more stopping to listen, better speak a little louder so they can hear me . . ." and before I knew it I had finished with my closing remarks and was through the ordeal.

My heart felt light ! I was so happy I wanted to rush into the multitudes and shout to them all about the wonderful Gospel we have to offer them. Instead, I settled myself to listen to the next speaker, content with the knowledge that I was now a fully fledged **Missionary.**

Editor's Note: This was written by a Lady Missionary who was 19 years old the day before the foregoing event.

Logs in the Stream

By WENDLE J. ASHTON

THE other day a small group of us hiked up the old Mormon Pioneer trail to the summit of historic Big Mountain. There,, on that modern Nebo, the Saints in 1847 caught their first glimpse of their promised land, Salt Lake Valley.

With us on the hike were the forest ranger and John D. Giles, who knew the old trail perhaps better than any living person. We strolled leisurely up the broad path, winding through groves of blossoming elderberries, white-trunked aspen and spreading maples. Occasionally we stopped. Then Brother Giles would relate a Pioneer story. White-topped wagons by the hundreds had creaked over this trail. Thousands of British converts were among those who came with them. Later had followed the handcarts, the pony express and the stagecoach.

The ranger, also, had a story or two. He pointed to a stream bed beside the path. In most places it was narrow and deep, almost ravine-like. He told us that when heavy rains descend upon the bald areas above, water washed violently down this deepening seam in the mountain's side.

"See up there?" (The ranger stretched his brown-sleeved arm toward a dam in the stream bed.) "That dam was started by a small tree trunk I once threw into the bed. Soil and rocks have build around the trunk. A substantial barrier has resulted.

"I make it a practice to toss a log into the stream bed every time I visit the canyon. These dams give the stream a chance to pause. When it doesn't rush so much it isn't so dangerous. It doesn't wash away the rich soil on the banks. It feeds more moisture to the roots of bordering grasses and trees. All this helps prevent floods and costly soil erosion."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"I'll serve the Lord whilst I am young," is exemplified in the life of the author. One of the notable youths of the Church, he has characterized his talents in civic and Church life. He graduated with high honours from the University of Utah in 1933, his major being business management. After his graduation he filled an honourable mission to Great Britain, where he laboured in the Liverpool District, and as Associate Editor of the "Millennial Star." Returning home, he became assistant manager and sales manager for the Sugar House Lumber and Hardware Co. He is a past president of Sugar House Chamber of Commerce. He has also held other important civic positions. For nine years he has been a member of the General Sunday School Union Board, and for four years he has been General Secretary to that Sunday Schools. He is also a family man, having three daughters.

There is a lesson in the Big Mountain stream bed that human beings could heed. Too often many men and women rush headlong through life with no thought of its purpose. James Truslow Adams, the historian, once said that it might be a good idea if all telephones and motors were halted for a few minutes while people paused to ponder what life "is all about."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offers such a pause each Sabbath. There in the meetings of the Church a man has the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with himself and his divine destiny. There he may learn whence he came, why he is here, and where he is going.

Soloman said: "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." (Proverbs 4: 26)

Such pauses, like those in the stream bed, give life greater breadth. They prevent it from becoming narrow. They not only enable the individual to get nearer to himself, but also to others, even as the backed-up waters in the stream draw closer to the bordering roots. All benefit.

Have you ever stopped to think how many good things you learn about your

neighbours, or fellow Church members, at Sunday meetings? The Church in its programme of providing the Priesthood to all its worthy men and participation to most all who attend its gatherings, brings its members closer together.

We feel kindlier toward the little red-haired girl around the corner from our house for having heard her speak in Sunday School. Our former newsboy seems closer to us since we heard him sing in the choir. We have greater appreciation for the young woman through the block since she painted the beautiful scenery for a Christmas programme. We like good people the more we know them. The Church, like nothing else in the world, affords us the opportunity of learning many good things about good people.

All this makes the observance of the second great commandment less difficult .

The Lord has said: "It is expedient that the church meet together often . . ." (D. and C. 20: 75)

Meetings of the Church, more important still, bring one nearer to the Lord Himself. There we learn about the Lord. The Restored Gospel, more sully than any other source, gives an understanding of Him and His Divine Plan. Like others, the Lord comes closer to us in our thoughts the more we know about Him. May we say He becomes more approachable? Or, better, we become more inclined to seek Him who is always approachable.

Recently, our five-year-old daughter was saying her bedside prayers. As customary, her mother said the words and Wendy repeated each phrase after her. But this time, shortly after the prayer had begun, Wendy opened her blue eyes, tilted her blonde head upward, and said: "But, Mommy, I want to pray for Skippy, and I don't know what to say." Skippy was the neighbour's little Brindle bulldog that had been run over and killed by a motor car that afternoon.

Wendy's implicit faith may have been nurtured mainly through the encouragement of her mother, but surely her Sunday School teacher has had her influence. The child adores her Sunday School class.

Jesus declared: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6: 33)

Logs in the stream, those weekly pauses in the ennobling influence of the Church, insure one against the pressures of life. They bring one closer to himself, his neighbour and his Maker. They make much more joyous the journey toward eternity.

CO-ORDINATOR DESIRES ADDRESSES OF LATTER-DAY SAINT SERVICEMEN NOW IN EUROPE

ALL Latter-day Saint Servicemen and civilians with the military service in Europe are invited to send their full names and addresses to Elder Francis F. Gasser, Office of Director of Political Affairs, O.M.G.U.S., A.P.O., 742, Berlin, Germany.

Compliance with this request will make it possible for the Church to maintain contact with all the members now in Europe.

It is also announced from European Mission headquarters that the first edition of the European Servicemen's Bulletin has been released and it is desired that all Latter-day Saint Servicemen and women in Europe receive copies of subsequent editions.

Can you sleep on a windy night ?

DIGEST OF REMARKS

An address delivered at the Afternoon Session of the British Mission Conference

By
Elder Frederick W. Babbel
Secretary to
European Mission President

●

AT times such as these there is a Spirit that enters our lives speaking in a voice of sweetness, but with a power that lifts us up and causes us to rejoice. It testifies much stronger than mere words that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, for it bears witness from the source of all light, all knowledge and all truth.

In the first section of the Doctrine and Covenants it states: "What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same." Do you believe that? Are you willing to follow the counsel and advice of God's living apostle, who is in our midst today, even as you would the counsel and advice of our blessed Saviour if He were to speak to you from the stand today as I am doing? God expects it of us if we are true and faithful. He has been chosen and set apart as a "special witness" to speak and act in the name of and by the power of Almighty God. Are you willing to accept his message and live according to the advice and counsel he gives you? By living as he and all of God's anointed servants teach us how to live, we shall one day be able to stand in the presence of our Heavenly Father and say, "I have been obedient. I come to you with clean hands and a pure heart. I have loved and sustained your choice servants and all who have loved Thee." Will you be able to give such an account of yourself?

I would like to tell you a story this afternoon about a boy who could sleep on a windy night. You will say, "That isn't much—anyone can sleep on a windy night!" But this is different. It happened some years ago in a land where most of the men and women work for someone else go to a fair—they call it a hiring fair—and strike a bargain for the next year, what work they shall do and how much they shall be paid. It is the only holiday away from work they have, all the year round—this hiring fair—so you may think how they look forward to it.

Now it happened that Farmer White was very much dissatisfied with a man who worked for him on his farm, so he set out for the fair to hire another man. And when he came to the fair he saw the gay tents and booths, and the flags, and heard the merry music; he saw all the farmers and farmers' wives, and the dairy maids and the strong young farm workers walking up and down—until he bethought him about the business that had brought him there—the hiring of a new farm man; so he began to look around for one. As he walked about he saw a young hobbledehoy (if you don't know what that means, it is an awkward, gawky young man). The farmer stopped him. "Well, young fellow," said Farmer White, "and what is your name?" "John, sir." "And what do you do?" "I work on a farm, sir." "Do you know anything at all about farming?" If you please, sir, I know how to sleep on a windy night." "You what?" "I know how to sleep on a windy night, sir." "Well, that's no great recommendation," said Farmer White. "Most of my men can do that too well now."

So Farmer White walked the fair and talked to this one and that, but he found no farm helper that suited him. And he met John again, asked him the same question and got the same strange answer. There was something in the boy's honest eyes he liked, something

—continued on page 345

Encouraging Press Reports

IF recent articles are anything to go by, many of the falsehoods and misunderstandings which have been around are going to be laid low.

The "News Review" in its 2nd May issue, printed an article called "Mormons on the March," and included a homely photograph of President and Sister Brown and their daughters, Carol and Margaret. The reporter recorded his impressions of visits with President Brown fairly and without bias.

In the August issue of "Brittania and Eve," nearly two full pages were taken up under the heading, "In a Mormon Temple." The article was illustrated with several pictures of our Temples, and Harold J. Shepstone, reporting from a visit with President Hugh B. Brown, attempted a rather faithful portrayal of the aims and purposes of Temple work, after making the statement that the Mormons are the only Temple building Church today. He took for a specific example the Cardston Temple, described each room and the purpose for which it is used.

The latest article appears in the 12th October issue of "John Bull," and is entitled "Mormons again—minus Polygamy." This article, reported by Hubert Cole, features a double page, and is illustrated with a portrait of President Brigham Young, with a background of photographs of some of his wives. There is also a photograph of Brigham Young the Fifth, whom many members will recall as a pre-war missionary.

Hubert Cole records very squarely the ideas he had collected from newspapers, popular books, and music hall jokes, then goes on to give a very accurate account of polygamy; the Book of Mormon as an additional witness to the Bible; the emigration troubles in the West; celestial marriage and baptism for the dead; tithing, and notable Mormon activities, such as light entertainment, sport, and communal work.

We quote here a few of the sentences from the article:

"It is obvious that anybody not an optimistic sexual maniac would not likely undertake the task of keeping more than one wife happy."

"In particular they forbade the entry of non-Mormons into their Temple (and even Mormons themselves had to undergo searching enquiry into their beliefs and the purity of their lives before they were allowed to frequent it. . . .")

"Many Mormons from this country have made the journey to Salt Lake City so that their marriages which have been contracted in their local Mormon chapel, and therefore binding only until death, shall be reinforced by a celestial marriage in the Temple.

"The Mormon way of life is devout, but not depressing. Since they have long been persecuted and are still largely misunderstood, there is no point in being a Mormon unless you really believe in the religion. . . ."
. . . "

"Mormons believe that we have an individual existence before birth as well as after death. . . ."

Mr. Cole's interview was with our present president, Selvoy J. Boyer.

On trams, trains and buses these articles will be read by hundreds of people. It may arouse in many hearts a desire to find out the truth. The old antagonistic articles have their value inasmuch as the memory of them will induce people to read the present series of more truthful ones.

CHALLENGE. Is your life one that some enquiring mind can see as a living example of what he has just read? Can your workmate or neighbour say of you, **"There goes a real Mormon!"**

New General Authority Named

Elder Bruce R. McConkie and his wife, Amelia S. McConkie, with their four children, who are, left to right: Vivian, Stanford Smith, Mary Ethel and Joseph Fielding

THE appointment of Bruce Redd McConkie, 31-year-old Salt Lake Chuch leader, lawyer and newspaperman, to fill the existing vacancy cy in the First Council of Seventy, was a feature of the closing session of the 117th Semi-Annual General Conference. Elder McConkie was presented as the newest General Authority of the Church as the Church authorites and officers were sustained in conference session. He fills the vacancy occasioned by the death of Elder John H. Taylor of the First Council of Seventy. Elder McConkie is not only the youngest General Authority today, but is the youngest to be sustained to the First Counsellor of Seventy since B. H. Roberts was named in 1888.

The appointment brings into the ranks of the Church offices a young man of imposing appearance, who has been prominent and active in many community affairs. He is a man whose wisdom and judgment have been proved in the younger circles of Salt Lake City.

Elder McConkie was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on July 29th, 1915, when his father was studying law at the University of Michigan. He is a son of Oscar W. McConkie and Vivian Redd McConkie. His parents are now presiding over the California Mission. The new member of the First Council of Seventy filled an honourable mission in the Eastern States, from 1934 to 1936. Elder McConkie is also an ex-serviceman. He entered the service as a First Lieutenant, and when he was released was a Lieutenant Colonel.

Though still young in years, he has been much in demand as a speaker in Sacrament meetings in the Salt Lake area. He is married to Amelia Smith, daughter of Elder J. F. Smith of the Council of Twelve, and the couple have four small children, two sons and two daughters. Since being released from the services about a year ago, Elder McConkie has been a member of the editorial staff of the "Deseret News," where he has been active in writing editorials and reporting.

Bishop Marvin O. Ashton Passes

IT is with profound regret that we learn of the passing of Bishop Marvin O. Ashton, First Counsellor in the Presiding Bishopric of the Church. He was 63 years of age. He was found dead in his bed at 8.0 a.m., Monday, October 7th, 1946, apparently due to heart attack.

He had delivered his conference address in the afternoon session the day previously and had gone to bed that night apparently in good health, although he had been ill from heart trouble for the past two years.

The death of Bishop Ashton brought to a close his active career as a Church leader that has extended over many years. It takes from the ranks of the Church authorities one of its most beloved members, one who has endeared himself to the people of the Church wherever duty called him.

His keen sense of humour, his wit, his love for the people, his ability to mingle with them, has made him countless friends among the membership of the Church, all of whom mourn his sudden passing.

Hundreds assembled on Temple Block to fill the Assembly Hall to capacity for the funeral of this great Church leader. A profusion of flowers and this large congregation bore silent tribute to the esteem in which he was held by all who knew him, or associated with him in his many undertakings.

President J. Reuben Clark, Junr., presided. Speakers who extolled the character and life's work of this departed brother were President George Albert Smith, Presiding Bishop Le Grande Richards, Elders Oscar A. Kirkham and Stirling A. Nelson.

President Smith, as the concluding speaker of the services, said that the name of Ashton had stood always for integrity and that it was a wonderful thing to go through life and have the confidence of the people we knew. He said of Bishop Ashton that he had lived many more years in service than he had in life. That he had always been energetic in his efforts to serve his fellow men and his Maker.

President Smith said that Bishop Ashton's interests had always been on the side of righteousness. His ambition has been always to bless his Father's other children. "He will go on throughout the ages of eternity with the love and confidence of myriads of people that he had merited while upon the earth. He radiated sunshine wherever he went. He could always see the sunshine and he divided it with others."

President Smith paid tribute to Mrs. Ashton and said that few women had been so blessed as she has to have such a fine husband, who loved everyone else. He has performed a great work, aided by the woman at his side. She has, he said, stood by the side of a man who loved everybody, and whom everbody loved.

In conclusion President Smith said he knew Bishop Ashton had gone to his reward and that many treasures awaited him on the other side in association with the men and women whom he loved. He declared that, as did Bishop Ashton, all could minimize their sorrows on earth by loving their fellow men and finding joy as the Lord commanded. He stressed the power of the testimony that was possessed by Bishop Ashton and bore his own testimony to the divinity of the Gospel as restored in this latter day and as embraced by Bishop Ashton.

FOR the first time in the history of the British Mission, two successful Mission Wide Conferences have been held in one year; it is now 109 years since the Gospel was first preached in this "blessed plot," and the Saints and their friends convened in a Mission Wide General Conference. Over 600 souls attended each session, the peak one being the afternoon, when the total was 635. They came from the rugged hills of Scotland, from the fertile valleys of Wales, from the Emerald Isle, and from every District in England. Large numbers had travelled all night, the majority had been on the move since the early hours of the morning. It had been a struggle and a sacrifice for many, but as they sat through session after session, we could see, by the looks in their upturned faces as they drank in the words that fell from their leaders lips, that they had been well repaid.

The keynote of the whole conference was plainly one of optimism: the sight of fifty missionaries from Zion did much to promote this spirit.

The conference commenced promptly at 4.0 p.m. Saturday. President Selvoy J. Boyer presided and conducted the opening exercises of the conjoint assembly. Acting upon a suggestion by the President, the assembled Saints assented unanimously to sending a cablegram of greeting to the Saints simultaneously assembled in conference in Salt Lake City. It read:

> "Fifty elders and six hundred Saints send greetings from the British Mission Conference, Birmingham, England, to loved ones and friends assembled in Zion. All is well.
>
> President Selvoy J. Boyer."

The meeting then divided; the sisters met in a Relief Society meeting under the direction of Sister Gladys Boyer, Mission Relief Society President. A well-prepared and delightful programme was presented; musical selections by the Singing Mothers of Liverpool, Leeds and Nottingham Districts, vocal solos, ladies' trios, were beautifully rendered. Theology, literature, social science and visiting teachers' lessons were eloquently presented by sisters from the Norwich, Scottish, Newcastle and London Districts. The power behind preparation was plainly manifested to the ninety-eight sisters in attendance.

In the Priesthood meeting urgent matters pertaining to the welfare of the Saints in this Mission, both materially and spiritually, were discussed. President Boyer presented, in his usual clear cut and precise manner, plans for the development and building up of the Church and Kingdom here in the British Isles.

After a brief recess for a refreshing lunch, the orchestra, directed by Jack Whitehouse, played modern dance music. The lovely

dresses worn by the sisters, the appearance of many of the boys returned from the forces, the efficiency of the M.C., the cabaret, and the spirit of determination to enjoy a real evening's entertainment, made the ball a complete success.

As the Saints gathered early on the Sunday morning, their countenances bespoke the joys in their hearts as they beheld President Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve in their midst. Accompanying the President was his secretary, Elder Frederick W. Babbel, whose charming personality and humour have made for him a warm spot in the hearts of many.

The spirit of all the Sunday sessions had to be felt to be really fully appreciated. Truly, the Lord was very close to us all there. Those assembled were thrilled to hear President Benson speak in the morning and evening sessions; his message and plea for all those assembled to live cleaner lives, to build up the home life, and his firm and sincere testimony, touched each heart to the core. The inspiring messages of President Boyer, his fearless denunciation of evil and sin, his infectious laugh, and his desire to see the other fellow's point of view, have already stamped him as a leader. The charm and sweet personality of Sister Boyer and her soul-inspiring message to the women of the Church in Great Britain did much in catching and retaining the spirit.

Many doctrinal subjects were eloquently treated by district presidents and others who spoke in the three Sunday sessions. The strong testimonies expressed left no doubt in the minds of those present of the high quality of leadership within the Mission.

The Monday morning session commencing at 9.0 a.m. was a Conference of Missionaries; it was a memorable occasion. The presence of past great leaders of this Mission was keenly felt there as this gathering, the first of its kind since 1939, convened. Tears of joy, peace and satisfaction glistened in the eyes of many as the Mission Mother spoke to her sons and daughters, and as President Benson and President Boyer spoke of their personal experiences and of the goodness of the Lord to them.

So, history has been made again ! We are back in our districts and branches, refreshed and invigorated for having partaken once again of the good fruit. Then, let each one of us by our actions loudly proclaim—"I will live my religion, I will walk humbly before my God and deal honestly with my fellow beings," so that as we meet in conference again next year we can unashamedly and unhesitatingly ask the Lord for the outpouring of His Spirit.

H. E. H.

World Church News

TOURISTS AT TEMPLE BLOCK.— Pre-war levels of Tourists at the Temple Block in Salt Lake City were nearly reached by the end of July. Since the beginning of the year, 368,130 tourists have visited Temple Block, compared with 164,372 for the same period last year. The largest month this year is July, with 123,856,, though this total may be exceeded in August.

A total of 42 missionaries and guides, under the direction of President David A. Smith, meet and guide the tourists through the historic buildings, and explain to them briefly the story of Mormonism.

ENROLMENT CAMPAIGN. — Four hundred thousand Sunday School members by December 31st, 1946, is the goal set by the Deseret Sunday School Board. This is an increase of 40,000 over the present enrolment of 360,000.

BOOK OF MORMON.—The Book of Mormon has been selected by the Grolier Club as one of the hundred books published before 1900 most to influence American life. It was first published in English in 1830.

WHO IS THE NINTH HORSEMAN? —On July 22nd, 1847. nine horsemen, headed by Orson Pratt and including George A. Smith, Erastus Snow and others, entered the Salt Lake Valley to explore it and determine a site for the new city. Eight of the horsemen have positively been identified and their names properly recorded in history. A search of more than 30 years has failed to bring to light positive identification of the ninth man. Now a Church-wide search has been instituted to find, if possible, evidence which beyond doubt will determine the name of the hitherto unidentified horseman. The name is needed to complete the list of the inscriptions for the "This is the Place" monument now under construction.

CLOTHING FOR NEEDY EUROPEAN SAINTS. — Nine hundred and fifty-eight boxes of clothing and blankets, amounting to well over 18,000 articles, were sent from the Northwestern States Mission last month for the relief of the Saints in Europe. Due to the difficulty in sending clothing over the border form Canada, the Saints in British Columbia sent 63 boxes of clothing directly overseas.

NEW SECRETARY.—Vera Ann Barcock Merkley of Bonneville Stake, has been appointed General Secretary of the Primary Board. Sister Merkley's life has been one of Church activity. She has two sons; both were commissioned officers in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II. The youngest, Guy Lynn Merkley, recently arrived in England as a Missionary.

MUSIC CO-ORDINATOR. — The General Music Committee of the Church announces the appointment of William LeGrand Maxwell as its Music Co-ordinator. Elder Maxwell has had many years of active experience in choral music both as a director and performer. His appointment will do much to stimulate the music activities of the Church. He is well known to many Saints in England, having sang in our Chapels whilst in this country in the services.

The Church in Europe

Recent reports by the European Mission Presiden, Elder Ezra Taft Benson, are very heartening. In the immediate past, many difficultes have been overcome. One of the problems was speeding up the distribution of Welfare Goods from Zion to the needy Saints in the East German Mission, Branches in Austria, and the French and British Zones of the West German Mission. This important concession has been brought about after numerous conferences between the officials of the Internatonal Red Cross, the recognised military Relief Organisations (C.R.A.L.O.G.) and President Benson.

To date the equivalent of sixteen car loads of foodstuffs and seven car loads of clothing have arrived in these stricken areas, and distribution will be based on 57% for the West-German Mission, 36% for the East-German Mission and 7% for Austria. In addition to this, welfare supplies in volume have arrived for our Saints in Norway, Holland, Belgium, France and Czechoslovakia and parcel post packages of food and clothing for these and other Missions on the Continent of Europe outside of the occupied territory.

On one of his recent trips to the Continent, President Benson was invited by the American delegation to the conference of the Food and Agricultural Organisations of the United Nations (F.A.O.) to assist them as advisor in their deliberations at Copenhagen, Denmark. He also addressed the American delegation, afterwards discussing with them the spiritual aspects of world problems.

The steady progress the Missions in Europe are making is most cheerful. Building sites for the erection of new chapels; and halls suitable to hold meetings are being inspected daily. Social activity is again being featured in many places, and well-attended meetings have recently been held in Gothenburg and Halsingborg, at which a high percentage were non-members. In Zurich (Swiss-Austrian Mission) an inspirational meeting was held with about one hundred and fifty of our members.

In the three Scandinavian Missions, good progress is also reported. Meetings are held regularly and they are also well attended. Chapels are eagerly sought after to accommodate their needs. The Missionaries are being most warmly received and meeting with gratifying success. The Saints are enthusiastically and whole-heartedly participating in all Mission activities and the number of baptisms is steadily increasing. The people are most receptive of the Gospel message, and in view is an encouraging sight, a rich harvest of souls.

In the Oslo Branch of the Norwegian Mission, the famous choir will be celebrating its ninetieth jubilee this winter, having been organised on 31st January, 1856. Today it has seventy active members. Its conductor for the past fifteen years has been Ramm Arveseter and the organist for the past twenty-three years has been Sister Mary Neilsen.

The orchestra of the same branch, organised in 1944, is making quite a name for itself; its aim is not only to assist the Choir but also to stimulate musical interest among the Saints.

Rehabilitation and Relief problems of our homeless and destitute refugee Saints from Poland and Czechoslovakia continue to be very acute. Every effort is being made to ensure all of our members receiving the needed food and clothing as they face what might well be the most trying winter since the war.

Although many new problems arise daily, some serious and perplexing, the Lord continues to open His windows of heaven, and so the building up of the kingdom continues under the watchfull care and able leadership of the Mission Presidents.

BRITISH MISSION

ARRIVALS AND ASSIGNMENTS

The following missionaries arrived in England, September 25th, 1946:

ROBERT KEITH BERNTSON of Salt Lake City, an Elder of the Parley Ward. He was recently discharged from the United States Novy. Elder Berntson has been assigned to labour in the Scottish District.

W. ROBERT CALLISTER, a seventy of the 27th Ward in Salt Lake City, has been assigned to labour in the Mission Office. He was in the Sunday School Superintendency in his Ward, thus being an active member of the Church. He is the third Callister to come to England on a mission, as his grandfather and uncle were also here, during which time they served as associate editors of the "Millennial Star." Elder Callister served in the U.S. Army in Germany and Austria.

ROBERT C. COMBES and his wife, **CLACE H. COMBES** are back in their home country after having a wide experience of Church activity in Salt Lake City. They have been assigned to the Liverpool District.

GEORGE P. MARCHANT is from the Liberty Ward in Salt Lake City, where he is a seventy. Elder Marchant is another of our ex-servicemen who is calling the world to repentance. He has been assigned to the Sheffield District.

ELDER F. CAMMACK of Pingree, Idaho, has been called to labour in the Hull District. He has been an active worker in the Y.M.M.I.A. in the Pingree Ward, where he served as secretary.

EDITH M. MULLINGER of East Coulee, Alberta, Canada, has been assigned to labour in the Nottingham District. Sister Mullinger is labouring in the land of her birth. She served in the Canadian Armed Forces during the war.

CLARENCE R. CAMPBELL, recently discharged from the Army Air Force, is a native of Rupert, Idaho. Elder Campbell's sister and his father have also served in the British Mission. He has been assigned to labour in the Birmingham District.

DAVID W. EGBERT from Logan, Utah, has been assigned to labour in the Sheffield District, where he will act as Supervising Elder. Elder Egbert was very prominent in Utah athletic circles. He was recently discharged as a pilot from the Navy Air Corps.

GUY LYNN MERKLEY of Salt Lake City, has been assigned to labour in the Birmingham District. Elder Merkley is a veteran of the Canadian Air Force. He was active in Church activities in the Yalecrest Ward of the Bonneville Stake. He served in the capacity of Assistant Scout Master.

BETTY A. MITCHELL of Bountiful Fifth Ward has been assigned to the Mission Office. She is an accomplished musician.

DEANE HOWARD PLATT is a veteran of the United States Merchant Marine. Brother Platt's home is in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he is an elder in Parley's Ward of the Highland Stake. He is the seventh member of his family to fulfil a Latter-day Saint mission. Elder Platt has been assigned to labour in Scotland.

LON W. RIGBY of St. Anthony, Idaho, has been assigned to labour in the Grimsby Branch of the Hull District. He is an elder in the St. Anthony Third Ward, where he served as Priesthood Teacher of his Elders' Quorum. Brother Rigby is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

SISTER LOWENE WOOD, who has been labouring in the Mission Office as Correspondence Secretary, has been transferred to the Nottingham District.

APPOINTMENTS AND RELEASES

The Board of the British Mission Y.W.M.I.A. was released September, 1946. Sister Doris F. Armstrong as President, with Sister Elsie Quinney and Sister Dora Green as Counsellors, have, during their term of office, been busily engaged in the reconstruction work after six years of war conditions. Sisters Armstrong and Quinney expect to leave in the near future for the U.S.A.

Sister Winifred Bailey of Sheffield, with lady missionary Sister Betty Mitchell and Sister Marjory Gregory of Bradford, have been chosen as the new Y.W.M.I.A. Presidency. They come into office at a time when the sisters throughout the Mission are looking for real leadership. We wish them success in their new and important calling.

Elder Albert Woodruff of Hyde was recently honourably released from his assignment. Brother Woodruff has laboured faithfully in the Church for many years. He was appointed Branch President of Hyde in 1935; in 1941 he was named Manchester District President, being released from this appointment on March 30th, 1946, when he was assigned to visit branches throughout the Mission under the direction of the Mission President.

PRIMARY SUPERVISORS CONVENTION

Convening in London, September 7th and 8th, 1946, were the Primary Supervisors from Bristol, Liverpool, Leeds, Nottingham, and London Districts. The first session assembled at 7.30 p.m. on the 7th inst. Sister Cunningham, the Mission Primary Mother, presided, Elder James R. Cunningham addressed the meeting, then many subjects were brought up for instruction and general discussion.

Re-assembling at 10 a.m. on the 8th, the projects for the Primary year's work was received. The General Board members were presented. Board members and supervisors contributed their ideas and the convention concluded satisfactorily.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Autumn Series

ELDERS Floyd O. Christensen and Horace E. Heyes were the representatives of the Mission President at the Scottish District Conference which convened in Glasgow September 22nd, 1946. There were two main sessions, at 11.0 a.m. and 6.0 p.m. Speeches by the Branch Presidents of the District, the Relief Society Supervisor, and two local sisters, A. Wilford Fellows, the District President, Elder Carl H. Whatcott, labouring in the Scottish District, and the Mission representatives; a duet, "God's Call Divine," by Sisters Thompson and Martin, gave much food for thought to the 48 souls who attended the morning session and the 64 who attended the evening session.

The Norwich District Conference convened in the Lowestoft Branch Chapel Sunday, September 29th, 1946.

Elders Horace E. Heyes and William H. Stoneman, who were representing the Mission Authorities, were in attendance. There were three main sessions, at 11.0 a.m., 2.0 p.m. and 6.0 p.m. A children's chorus and pageant, "The Good Samaritan," featured in the morning session. Members, auxiliary leaders, the District Presidency; travelling missionaries, Sisters Agnes Fraser and Clora Chidester, Elders Richard W. Clayton and Joseph K. Cross; the Mission representatives; eloquently and efficiently treated many Gospel subjects throughout the three sessions. Vocal solos, quartettes, and

the Norwich Branch Chorus, all helped to make the conference an outstanding success.

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The Manchester District Conference convened in the Rochdale Branch Chapel, Saturday and Sunday, October 12th and 13th. The Saturday session was a conjoint Priesthood and Relief Society meeting, under the direction of President and Sister Boyer. A social evening of vocol solos, plays, monologues, recitations, was pronounced a huge success by the 80 people attending.

On Sunday three main sessions were held; Ezra Taft Benson, European Mission President, addressed each session. Other speakers throughout the day were President and Sister Boyer, Elders Frederick W. Babbel, Horace E. Heyes, W. Robert Callister, Albert Eccles, Jr., District President William C. Stone, and local brethren, Elders Norman Woodhead, Frank Kelsh and William Beverley.

A beautiful spirit prevailed, greatly enhanced by the vocal solos, duets, and choir selections. There were 150 in attendance at the evening session.

DISTRICT ACTIVITES

MANCHESTER—September was an activity month for the members and friends of the Rochdale Branch. On the 21st, the M.Men commenced their football season and were victorious by 6 goals to 1.

Later in the afternoon a baptismal service was held in the Rochdale Baths, at which Harry Withington (Rochdale), June Haig (Oldham) and David Vernon (Blackpool) were baptized by Elder Albert Eccles, Jr. Harry Withington was confirmed on Sunday, 22nd, by Elder William C. Stone in the Rochdale Chapel.

On the same evening a bus load of Saints attended a social evening in Burnley.

On September 22nd the Harvest Festival was held, and on September 28th a Welfare social was held, at which 70 people enjoyed a well-prepared programme under the direction of Brother Frank Kelsh.

SHEFFIELD.—On Sunday, September 1st, 1946, in the Sheffield Branch Chapel, Graham George Stubbs was baptized by his father, Elder George A. Stubbs and confirmed by Elder Fred K. Birkhead.

The M.I.A. opening social of the Doncaster Branch was held September 7th, 1946. An enjoyable programme of musical items, plays and readings were given by members and friends.

On Monday, September 9th, 1946, a farewell social was held in the Sheffield Chapel in honour of Sister Elsie Quinney, who expects to leave shortly for the U.S.A. She was presented with useful gifts and wished God-speed by the District members. The Primary children, among whom she has been an active worker, did a special entertainment for her and presented her with a box of handkerchiefs.

Sheffield Branch held there opening social Saturday, September 21st, 1946. A delicious dinner was served and an amusing and enjoyable evening was spent under the direction of the Y.M.M.I.A. President, Elder Fred K. Birkhead.

NOTTINGHAM. — A baptismal service was held in the Vestry Street Baths Leicester, on Sunday, September 22nd, 1946. Kathleen Ada Lenton, Margaret Ann Lenton, Trevor Michael Berwick, and Kathleen Marjorie Cayless were baptised by Elder Leslie J. Sullivan. They were confirmed by Elders Wallace Reid, Alfred E. Higgins, Samuel Pears and George E. Gent, respectively.

HULL. — The opening social of the Hull Branch M.I.A. was held Tuesday, Septembed 17th, 1946. A thoroughly enjoyable programme was arranged under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Hodge, friends of the Church.

Grimsby Branch held their opening M.I.A. Social on September 18th, 1946. Short skits, games, and dancing provided a lovely evening entertainment.

NOTTINGHAM. — Leicester Branch Sunday School Annual Outing was held August 31st, 1946. It was a delightful trip to Woodhouse Eaves, under the direction of Sister E. Gent.

A concert and dance to open the M.I.A. Winter activities of the Leicester Branch was held Saturday, September 14th, 1946. A well-prepared programme, ably supported by the members contributed to a very successful evening.

PERSONALS

BIRTHS

FITTON.—The son of Brother and Sister William Fitton of Blackpool, born July 17th, 1946, was blessed August 4th, 1946, by President Parkin L. Cookman, at Preston, and given the name John Stuart Fitton.

HAYCOCK.—A daughter was born to Mr. Harold Haycock and Sister Janet Haycock on Sunday, August 25th, 1946, She was blessed September 15th, 1946, by Elder Fred L. Birkhead, and given the name Christine Ann.

SPENCER—A son was born to Brother and Sister James E. Spencer of the Burnley Branch on July 20th, 1946. He was blessed on September 29th, 1946, by Elder Parkin L. Cookman in the Burnley Branch Chapel and given the name of Stephen Morgan.

SMITH — The infant daughter of Brother and Sister Horace H. Smith, born 16th August, 1946, was blessed on Sunday, 13th October, 1946. by her uncle, Branch President Ernest G. Osborn, at St. Albans Branch, and given the name Laraine Osborn.

EVANS. — David John Sandison Evans, infant son of Brother and Sister George H. Evans of Leicester, was blessed September 1st, 1946, by his Grandfather, Elder George E. Gent.

ENGAGEMENT

STOCK-COOK. — The engagement was announced on Saturday, September 4th, 1946, of Miss Joyce Stock of Dover, to Brother Donald Cook of Norwich.

MARRIAGES

PATEMAN-MOTTIAM. — On Thursday, June 6th, 1946, at the Letchworth Free Church, Sister Bessie Mary Pateman, eldest daughter of Brother and Sister H. G. Pateman, was married to Mr. Leonard John Mottiam. The bridegroom has since returned to Singapore, where he is serving in the R.A.M.C.

MAYBURY - BELLAMY. — In the Sheffield Branch Chapel, September 14th, 1946, Brother Samuel James Maybury married Sister Doreen Bellamy. The ceremony was performed by President George H. Bailey. A reception was held in the Chapel, at which 30 people were guests.

GOLDEN WEDDING

BALLS — A party was held in the hame of Brother and Sister Balls on September 19th, wherein many friends and members of the Church gathered to celebrate their golden wedding. They were married on September 19th, 1896—Sister Balls is 72 and Brother Balls is 76 years of age. They have three sons and daughters living and seventeen grandchildren. Brother Balls went to America in 1930 and stayed for three years, but owing to the ill-health of Sister Balls he had to return to this country. It is claimed that the genealogy of Sister Balls has been traced back over 600 years. A presentation of a reading lamp was made by President F. W. Oates on behalf of the members of the branch, and Elder C. Ellwood offered a toast on behalf of all those present.

DEATHS

NELSON — Brother Albert Condie Nelson, aged 45 years, who desided in Carlisle, died on September 18th, 1946, and was interred on September 21st.

MILL—Sister Elizabeth Barker Mill, a faithful member of the Sunderland

—continued at foot of next page

PATRIARCH TO THE CHURCH

RELEASED FROM DUTIES

THE release of Elder Joseph F. Smith, Patriarch to the Church since October, 1942, was announced to the Church at the close of the final session of the 117th Semi-Annual General Conference.

President David O. McKay, who officiated at the sustaining of the General Authorities, at the close of the session, made the following explanation relative to the release of Patriarch Smith:

"You will note that in the presentation of the General Authorities, the name of the Patriarch was omitted. The President of the Church has received from Patriarch Joseph F. Smith the following letter":

"Centerville, Utah, 3rd October, 1946. President George Albert Smith, 47 East, South Temple Street, S.L.C., Utah.

"Dear President Smith,—As you know, I have been very ill for many months. While I am slowly gaining strength and hope soon again to be able to do some work, I do not know when, if at all, I shall be able to stand the full drain upon my energy incident to the office of Patriarch to the Church. As you know, the duties of the Patriarch entail heavy exhaustion. Since but one man holds that office, if he is measurably incapacitated, its work must in that degree suffer.

"I know, of course, that one neither resigns nor asks to be released from such a calling out of personal considerations, any more than one requests appointment or asks for office. My chief desire is that the work of the Lord shall prosper.

'Bearing these things in mind, I am willing to say that if you desire me to carry on, I shall do my best. If, however, in the circumstances, you shall feel that the interests of the Church would be best served by releasing me at this time, I want you to feel at liberty to do that. I am therefore writing this letter to let you know that you have my full support for whatever you decide. I am grateful for the Lord's goodness to me and mine. Ever praying the Lord's choicest blessing upon you, I am, sincerely, your brother, Joseph F. Smith."

"After careful and prayerful consideration, and with deep regret and sympathy for his condition, the First Presidency, with the expressed assent and approval of the Council of the Twelve, have decided, under all the circumstances, that Brother Joseph F. Smith shall be released from his duties as Patriarch of the Church."

PERSONALS —continued from previous page

Branch, died on September 1st, 1946, and was buried on September 4th, 1946. The funeral service was conducted by Elder C. Ellwood in the Church Cemetery. President F. W. Oates talked on the resurrection and also dedicated the grave. A memorial service for this sister was held on Sunday, September 8th, 1946; Elder Charles Ellwood conducted the service, and he and Sister D. Mohrke paid tribute to Sister Mill. Principal speakers were Elder Oswald and President S. Short. Although blind, Sister Mill was a very diligent and faithful worker in the Church. One of her many talents was writing poetry.

COOK. — Norwich Branch lost a faithful worker with the passing of Sister Hilda Vida E. Cook, whose death occured in the Woodlands Hospital on September 16th, 1946, after a long and painful illness. The funeral service was held at the Norwich Branch Chapel on Friday, September 20th, 1946. The interment was in the Norwich Cemetery. President Alfred F. Woodhouse presided and dedicated the grave.

CHARITY NEVER FAILETH

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In the Book of Mormon we read that "Charity is the pure love of Christ and endureth for ever, and who so is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him."

We are all God's children, and we should love Him and learn to keep all of His commandments, not merely the ones that appeal to us. It is really up to each one of us, for we all know that every blessing we receive is predicated upon our living the law upon which that blessing is predicated. Our Father in Heaven has said to us, "When you keep my commandments I am bound."

Let us honour the Presithood, and encourage our husbands, sons and brothers to honour it also. It is our duty to see that their clothes are all in readiness that they do not have an excuse to stay away from their Priesthood meetings. It is up to us as mothers to encourage our men to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Every one of the authorities gives his mother or his wife the credit for what he has become. Invariably they will say, "I owe what I am to my mother." It is a challenge to each of us to help our sons become faithful Latter-day Saints.

I bear my testimony to you, that I know Jesus is the Christ, and that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. I know my Father in Heaven hears and answers our prayers. I am grateful for every blessing that has been bestowed upon me. I am thankful for the opportunity of coming here on a Mission. It is my earnest desire that I may so order my life that I may always have the Spirit of my Father in Heaven to guide and direct me to do the things He would have me do, that I may be worthy of His blessings. May God bless each and every one of you, I ask humbly in Jesus' name. Amen.

DIGEST OF REMARKS

—continued from page 332

behind what he said that interested him. But he wasn't willing to hire a boy whose only boast was that he could sleep on a windy night. And he made the rounds of the fair again, and late in the afternoon saw John still waiting to be hired. He quickly made up his mind, walked over to John, and said, "You are certainly a curious kind of a farm hand, but come along to my farm and we'll see what you can do."

John worked away for several weeks, not much noticed—and that isn't a bad sign, either. When anything is working well it isn't much noticed. And then one night the wind woke up. It gathered itself in gusts on the hills, and sent the clouds scurrying across the sky, and roared through the forest, and hammered against buildings, and tore at the haystacks, and howled down the chimneys, and when Farmer White heard it, he sat straight up in bed. He knew that wind. Many a time it had wrenched doors off his barns, and scattered his hay and bowled over his chicken coops. So he jumped out of bed and shouted for John. Now John was sleeping in the attic. "John!" the farmer yelled, but never an answer. "John!" he shouted louder than the wind, but no word from John. So the farmer bounded up to the attic and shook John, and shook him—"Now, John, my lad, get up! The wind's taking everything!" But John lay like a log—he never moved.

So Farmer White rushed out into the wild night, expecting to see everything tumbled about. But he found the stable doors safely fastened, and the horses safely tethered, and the windows firmly locked, and the cattle all snug in their stalls. He found the stack yard intact—the stacks well roped and the ropes well pegged. He found the pig-sty secure and the chicken coops firms—and the wind tearing fiercely around them all the time.

Then Farmer White laughed out loud. It came to him all of a sudden just what John had meant. Do you know what he meant?

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A GREAT NATION

You are living in a great country. Possibly more of the blood of Israel has come out of Great Britain than any other nation in Europe, perhaps closely followed by the Scandinavian countries and then Germany. The Lord has been very mindful of this nation. Never feel in your heart that the Lord is not at the helm, that He is not over-ruling the affairs of men and of nations. Wars may come and wars may go, nations may rise and fall, but God's purpose will be accomplished. He will permit nations to go just so far and no further. This nation has had a great mission. One of the reasons has been that there has been a great amount of the blood of Israel here. It has not been solely because of the wisdom of your leaders, but rather because of the people and because the Lord expected to use this nation to help accomplish His great purposes.

But all is not well with the British nation. There is much here that is disappointing to the Lord. You know that there is much sin.

There is a great need for national repentance if this nation would escape many of the calamities that have been predicted and which the Lord has said would be poured out upon the nations of the earth.

I hope and pray you will realize your great heritage as members of this great Christian nation, that you will live as your parents and grandparents and great-grandparents have done, as lovers of liberty and freedom; people who have stood on their own feet and have been willing to work for their living, people who have been willing to live for their blessing. I hope you will never lose sight of this fact. I hope you will keep these homes strong, and above all, I hope you will remain true to the faith, true to the Church of which you are a member.

THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD

You have heard testimonies here today to the effect that this is the greatest thing in the world—the Church and Kingdom of God—that it has been established on the earth again, brought back in preparation for the great event of Christ's Second Coming. I know that is true. God has in very deed spoken from the heavens. He has raised up a Prophet. He has sent forth again His Priesthood, power and authority for the blessing of all the children of men. This is the last and great dispensation in which the great consumation of God's purposes will be made, the only dispensation in which the Lord has promised that sin will not prevail. This dispensation will not pass away. THE CHURCH WILL NOT BE TAKEN FROM THE EARTH AGAIN. IT IS HERE TO STAY. The Lord has promised it and you are a part of that Church and Kingdom—the nucleus around which will be builded the great Kingdom of God on the earth. The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God on the earth will be combined together at Christ's coming—and that time is not far distant. How I wish we could get the vision of this work, the genius of it, and realize the nearness of that great event. I am sure it would have a sobering effect upon us if we realized what is before us.

HAPPENINGS IN PALESTINE

I have thought recently about what is happening in Palestine. No people in all the world understand the Jewish people and what is before them as do the Latter-day Saints. I stood in Warsaw, Poland, a few weeks ago upon the ruins of the famous Ghetto, or Jewish community, in that city. Here in a space about one mile square approximately 350,000 Polish-Jews were forced to live together behind a massive wall, which they were forced to build. The wall, which completely en-

circled this little community, was mounted with machine guns and electrified barbed-wire so the people were in a veritable prison enclosure. Here they were ravaged, their earthly possessions taken from them; groups were machine-gunned, new types of bombs and explosives were tried out upon them, planes used the enclosure as a bomb proving ground, and finally the order was given to destroy them all. I stood in that desolated area and saw rubble stretching on all sides of me. There was not a building left, not a single wall standing—and when I say not a single wall, I mean just that. Except for a badly damaged Church at one end, there was not a thing sticking out of the rubble. We were told that there are still some 200,000 bodies buried under this debris.

I thought of the prophecies that have been made regarding these people from whose loins came the Master of the earth. I thought of the judgments that the Lord had promised would be poured out upon them, a people who have been driven and persecuted ever since, a people without a country. Then I thought of the promises which have been made regarding their gathering. I was in Czechoslovakia just last Sunday (September 29th, 1946), meeting with a group of Saints there just like you. In speaking with President Wallace F. Toronto of that Mission, he told me of some of the Jews leaving their former homelands. To some of them he said: "Why don't you stay here or stay in some other country? Why do you want to be moving to Palestine?" The answer he received was: "We don't know, except we have in our hearts an urge to go to the Holy Land." And they are going there by the thousands.

One hundred years ago Elder Orson Hyde dedicated the land of Palestine for the return of the Jews and made great promises concerning their going there. The British nation is playing a great part in making these promises come true. General Allenby of your forces helped open that land for the return of the Jews in 1918. We know that the leaders of the nation do not fully realize why they are doing this, but we as Latter-day Saints know. It has been one of the missions that this great nation has had—the bringing about of the return of the Jews to Palestine in fulfilment of the Bible prophecies that are very clearly made concerning this event. We know they will gather there. They will become a strong nation. They will have their wars with outside nations. They will have their prophets. Christ will appear to them and the Mount of Olives will cleave in twain. The enemies of the Jews will be overcome as Christ appears to them and then they will recognize for the first time that He is in very deed the long-looked-for King. Then they shall say, "What are these wounds in your hands and in your feet?" And He will answer: "These are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of your friends." Then, for the first time, they will realize that He is Jesus the Christ whom they crucified That is all revealed to us. Read the 45th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants.

THE GREAT THEOCRACY

This great time is drawing near. There is every evidence that His Second Coming is near at hand. I do not say that wars are over. I wish I could tell you that permanent peace is with us, I wish I could. I wish you would read again the 87th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants—that revelation given to Joseph Smith on Christmas day in 1832 regarding wars to come and in which the Civil War of my own country was predicted—in which it is recorded that war will continue to be poured out until nations will be no more. Then the great Theocracy, with Christ at the head, will be established. This is the import of this revelation. I don't say this to frighten you. There is nothing of which you need be frightened if you live your religion. You will be protected no matter where you are so long as you live the Gospel. I do not say that there will be none of us called

upon to sacrifice our lives. But what does that matter if we are living the Gospel.

I know some of you who are with us today have sacrificed your sons or your daughters, your sweethearts or other loved ones. No doubt there will be many other tragic losses as the judgments of the Almighty continue to be poured out upon the nations of the earth.

The righteous will suffer with the wicked, but in due course of time eternal justice will be assured. We have nothing to fear. God is ruling the forces of men and of nations. He is recognizing His Priesthood who stand at the head of His Church. I know that as I know that I am standing before you. I have felt of this power in the Councils of the Church.

How I wish we could all have felt of the power of His Spirit as I have experienced it, particularly during the past two years while I have been associated with the Presiding Councils of the Church.

GOD'S WORK

This is God's work. I want you to remember this even though we may not meet again for many years, and possibly not again upon this earth. This is the testimony which I bear unto you: That God has in very deed revealed Himself from the Heavens. He did raise up the boy Prophet—the greatest prophet that has ever lived upon this earth, except Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Joseph Smith has done more for the salvation of men in this world than any man who ever lived in it, except the Master. He stands at the head of this dispensation—the greatest gospel dispensation of all time—and all the world will some day come to realize that he is in very deed a Prophet of the Living God. Those who have succeeded him have had the same power and authority and have been recognized by God as His mouthpieces upon the earth, even as President George Albert Smith is today. A sweeter, lovelier character than President Smith I have never met and God is with him and sustaining him. This Church is not being directed by the wisdom of men. I know that. The power and influence of Almighty God are directing His Church.

And so, my brothers and sisters, I leave this testimony with you in all humility, grateful for it and pleased to bear it. I have enjoyed this glorious opportunity of bearing this testimony to you. God help us to be true and faithful!

I invoke His blessing upon you as His humble servant and promise you the riches of eternity in return if you will only be true and faithful. I invoke His blessings upon these missionaries, of whom I have been so proud today. God bless them and help them to magnify their calling as they carry this message to the people of this goodly land. And God bless us all to live that which we know to be right, that me may meet again in that eternal world and enjoy the love and association of each other eternally, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

RELATIVES OF NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT LOCATED

Through Latter-Day Saint Genealogical Society

A RECENT occurrence demonstrated the value of records of the Genealogical Society and of the Salt Lake Temple.

Last Spring, President Bugh B. Brown, then president of the British Mission, entertained at the Mission Home Mr. Vivian Meik, diplomatic correspondent for "The People," one of the largest Sunday papers in England. He showed a very friendly attitude toward our Church and its representatives in England, including President Ezra Taft Benson.

Later President Brown received a letter from Mr. Meik stating that his grandfather, James Patrick Meik, had become a member of our Church and had emigrated to Utah in the sixties or seventies. Mr. Meik knew nothing more concerning his grandfather. He was anxious to know if there are any of his relatives now living and if so he would like to get in touch with them. President Brown forwarded his inquiry to the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City to see if anything helpful could be found.

With this meagre information of the name only of the grandfather the search began. In the Temple Index Bureau was found the endowment card for James Patrick Meik, born 9th January, 1807, at Secroe, Oude, East India, son of James Meik and Harriet L'Herondell. This showed he was baptized in the year 1852 and endowed 27th September, 1869, and his deceased wife Mary Ann Francis was sealed to him 12th July, 1871. In the same file was found the endowment card for his son; Joseph Francis Meik, born 21st May, 1854, in Calcutta, Hindoostan, East Indies, son of James Patrick Meik and Mary Ann Francis, and also for another son, Francis Thomas Meik, born 25th August, 1873, Salt Lake City, son of James P. Meik and his second wife, Susan Hutchinson.

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From the telephone directory the names and addresses of seven descendants of the emigrant grandfather were obtained. This information was sent to Mr. Vivian Meik in London. He replied immediately:

"I am more appreciative than I can say of the trouble you have taken to trace relatives of mine in your city. I shall always remember your kindness and courtesy.

"Be assured, I shall get in touch with my relatives—it is an experience to which I am looking forward with intense interest—but in order to save a little time, could I impose on your convenience just once more?

"Among the names of my grandfather's descendants in Salt Lake City, two stand out particularly in what I can only describe as a remarkable coincidense. They are: Harold A. Meik, 5790 West 27 South, and Lorenzo A. Meik, 871 West 3 So.

"With a sense of amazement I am asking myself how they came to be there, because my two brothers whom I last saw almost 25 years ago have just those names and initials. The odd thing about this is that I had heard from my brother Harold about 10 years ago from somewhere in the Far East. He was then a Merchant Navy officer.

"The other brother, known to my family as Arnold, though his actual name was Lorenzo Arnold, lost contact about the same time. He had, if I remember rightly, married a Miss Maude Marshall a few years previously. Are your two Meiks by any chance my brothers? Could you ring them to enquire?

"I would have written to them immediately, but in view of the possibilities of surprise, and in case the names are the purest coincidence, I feel hesitant to gate crash on them in any vein of unjustifiable familiarity.

"Meanwhile, I once again thank you for the trouble you have taken.

"Before I close, should you perchance meet Mr. and Mrs. Hugh B. Brown, woud you kindly convey sincerest remembrances from my wife and myself: We often recall with pleasure the evening we spent at their London home.

"I am here in not infrequent touch with your president, Ezra Taft Benson, and his secretary, Mr. Babbel, who visited us at home, and who, I hope, will regard themselves in due course as old friends. They are both well, but very busy continually travelling about Europe. The work they are doing is of sterling quality and has earned the unqualified praise both of the governments and the press with whom they have been in contact. They themselves have won the highest respect. Both are men I feel privileged to know." .. .. ..

The Genealogical Society consulted by telephone with Lorenzo A. Meik and James Patrick Meik, father of Harold A. Meik. Lorenzo Alexander Meik proved to be the first cousin of Mr. Meik in London, and Harold Armstrong Meik was the son of another first cousin. Although their names and initials were identical with the two brothers of Mr. Vivian Meik, they were not the same individuals.

Photostat copies of documents in the possession of Mr. James Patrick Meik, the grandson, were sent to London. These included the declaration of intention of becoming a citizen of the United States by James Patrick Meik, 14th October, 1869, the marriage certificate of James Patrick Meik, bachelor and Mary Anne Francis, spinster, at Calcutta, December 1st, 1836, and a letter to Joseph Francis Meik, son of the emigrant, by his brother Lorenzo Meik, sent from Calcutta, India, December 10th, 1880.

Still more remarkable, it was ascertained that James Patrick Meik, the convert, after coming to Utah, had gone into the Endowment House and in the years 1870-1872 had been baptized for 70 of his immediate relatives. From this information given by the grandfather it was possible to trace a pedigree back to his fourth great-grandparents, Thomas Meik and Miss Heron of Perthshire, Scotland. The line runs down through their son John Meik and Miss Crighton; their son Patrick Meik and wife Margaret Ogilvey; their son George Meik 1683-1755 of Perthshire, Scotland, who married Christian Cook, born 1690 in Ely, Fife, Scotland. They were the parents of Patrick Meik, born November, 1716, Perthshire, died 18th July, 1782, who married Jean Mackie. Their son James Meik, born 10th January, 1758, Perthshire, moved to India and evidently died there 25th April, 1837. His wife was Harriet L'Herondeil, born 4th June, 1786, East Indies, died 1870, the daughter of Francis L'Herondell and Mary Le Clair, the former born in England and the latter in East Indies. James and Harriet were the parents of James Patrick Meik who was born in India and became a convert to the Church in 1852 and died in Utah about 1879, after having placed on record all this knowledge of his ancestry by means of temple work he did for them.

In view of the foregoing, it is significant that the patriarch who gave him his patriarchal blessing in Salt Lake City, June 7th, 1870 (about six months before he began his temple work), uttered these words upon the head of James Patrick Meik:

"The eye of the Lord has been upon you from everlasting to do a great and a mighty work in the Kingdom, even to bring in thine own native kindred into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. . . . You shall be the means of redeeming your progenitors until you are satisfied . . . and shall be a saviour upon Mount Zion." (P. B. 77: 77)

EXODUS TO GREATNESS

by PRESTON NIBLEY

MORMON BATTALION LEAVE FAMILY, FRIENDS TO ANSWER CALL OF COUNTRY

IT was on Thursday, July 16th, 1846, that the men of the Battalion were mustered into service and marched away towards Sarpy's store at Trader's Point, on the Missouri River, where they were to obtain blankets and commissary supplies for their journey to Fort Leavenworth. How the individual soldier felt when he left his family and friends at the Buffs is well described in the journal of William Hyde, who served as a sergeant in this expedition.

"We were mustered into the service of the United States on July 16th, 1846," he writes, "and marched to the Missouri River, a distance of eight miles, to purchase blankets and other necessary articles for the campaign, the price of the same to be deducted from our first draft on the government.

"The thoughts of leaving my family at this critical time are indescribable. They were far from the land of their nativity, situated upon a lonely prairie, with no dwelling but a wagon and the scorching sun beating upon them, with the prospect of the cold winds of December finding them in the same bleak and dreary place.

"My family consisted of a wife and two small children, who were left in company of a brother and aged mother and father. Most of the Battalion left families, some in care of the Church, some in care of relatives, and some in their own care." (Mormon Battalion History, p. 128)

On the same day that the Battalion marched away, about half past four in the afternoon, the quorum of the Twelve met in council.

"It was voted unanimously that Ezra Taft Benson be ordained an Apostle. The Twelve knelt before the Lord and prayed, President Young being mouth. They then arose and laid hands on Ezra T. Benson and ordained him an Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with all of the keys and powers and blessings pertaining to the Apostleship, and to take the crown of him who had fallen." (Journal History)

"The Council assembled at John Taylor's tent in the evening and voted that Elders Orson Hyde, Parley P. Pratt and John Taylor go to England, and that Reuben Hedlock and Thomas Ward be disfellowshipped until they shall appear before the Council and make satisfaction for their repeated disregard of counsel."

President Young met with the members of the Battalion for the last time, as they were about to begin their march to Fort Leavenworth, a distance of two hundred miles.

"He instructed the captains to be fathers to their companies and manage their affairs by the power and influence of the priesthood, then they would have power to preserve their lives and the lives of their companions and escape difficulties. He told them that he would not be afraid to pledge his right hand that every man would return alive if he would perform his duties faithfully, without murmuring and go in the name of the Lord, and be humble and pray every morning and evening in their tents.

"A private soldier is as honorable as an officer, if he behaves as well. No one is distinguished as being better flesh and blood than another. Honour the calling of every man in his place.

"All the officers but three have

been in the Temple. . . . Keep neat and clean, teach chastity, gentility and civility; swearing must not be admitted; insult no man; have no contentious conversations with the Missourians, Mexicans, or any class of people. Do not preach, only where people desire to hear, then be wise; impose not your principles upon any people; take your Bibles and Books of Mormon; burn cards, if you have any. . . . When the Father has proved that a man will be his friend under all circumstances, he will give to that man abundantly and withhold no good thing from him. . . . He assured the brethren that they would have no fighting to do; told them that the Saints would go into the Great Basin, which was the place to build temples and where their strongholds should be against mobs; that the Constitution of the United States was good and that the Battalion would probably be disbanded about eight hundred miles from the place where the Saints would locate."

Thus spoke the wise man who stood at the head of the Church. Many of his bits of sage advice to the members of the Battalion will apply to us today. "When the Father had proved that a man will be His friend under all circumstances, He will give to that man abundantly and withhold no good thing from him."

After the departure of the Battalion, the next proposition before the brethren was to find suitable locations for the Saints during the autumn and winter, and for their flocks and herds, while they remained on the Missouri River. Henry W. Miller was sent, with a small party, to travel northward along the east bank of the Missouri and search for a suitable place to winter cattle. Brother Miller and his party returned on the forenoon of July 20th. Under this date the Journal History informs us that "Henry W. Miller and company returned from their exploring expedition and went into council with the Twelve under the bowery. Andrew Perkins, as clerk of the company, reported that they had been to the Boyer River and found it unfordable; they saw an Indian who said that there were rushes above the Boyer and that the country was good for autumn and spring, but no better than Mosquitto Creek. They had been up the river forty miles."

From the Pottawatomie Indians the brethren obtained permission in writing to remain on their lands until they could journey westward. This document was also approved by the Indian agent, Mr. Mitchell, and by Captain Allen and Colonel Kane. This was one of the advantages President Young gained through the enlistment of the Battalion.

On Tuesday, the 21st of July, a High Council was organized at the Bluffs for the benefit of the Saints. The names of the members of this Council are as follows: "Isaac Morley, George W. Harris, James Allred, Thomas Grover, Phinehas Richards, Herman Hyde, Andrew H. Perkins, Henry W. Miller, Daniel Spencer, Jonathan H. Hale and John Murdock."

The Council was given a letter of instructions, signed by Brigham Young in behalf of the Twelve, which I shall reproduce here in part:

"We would instruct the High Council to attend as speedily as convenient to locating and advising all those Saints who will tarry here, as well as others who may hereafter arrive this season; to use all the means in your power to have all the poor Saints brought from Nauvoo and locate them here for the winter, or, at either of the farms back as circumstances and your best judgment may dictate; and further, to oversee and guard the conduct of the Saints and counsel them, that the laws of God and good order are not infringed upon, nor trampled underfoot. It will also be expected that you will assist and counsel the bishops who are appointed to take charge of the families of those who are gone as volunteers in the service of the United States. . . . It will also be wisdom and necessary to establish schools for the education of children during the coming winter in this region, and we wish you to see that this is done."

Poetry . . .

"CONSCIENCE"

By Monica Healey

Preston Branch

In the still of the night I listened
To a voice that rang in my ear.
I wept, and the tear drops glistened;
The voice seemed to say, "Never Fear."

I pondered awhile to think,
And I thought of my life that had gone,
And my cheeks seemed to blush a faint pink,
As I thought of the deeds I'd done wrong.

I realize that God is my friend
In trouble, in gladness, in sorrow.
And to me He would happiness send
Today, and He'd help me tomorrow.

But I realize, too, I've a part to play,
In this life of sunshine and shower.
Every second, and minute, and hour of the day
To complete the pay of my dower.

Happiness comes to him who seeks,
In the hours of trial and trouble.
Not to the man who idles and sleeps;
His chance has gone like a bubble.

Life is a battle that's got to be won,
And every man must fight it:
Arise with the dawn, and shine like the sun,
For every wrong—well, right it.

Familiar Conference Scene